

Aloha!

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An Advertiser exclusive report:

Ronald Rewald tells his story

By Walter Wright
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Ronald Rewald says he personally is worth \$3 million, his embattled company is worth at least \$4 million more, and the only way investors will get that money back is if he is given money to defend himself and the firm.

But interim bankruptcy trustee Thomas Hayes replied that he is sticking by his estimate that both the company and Rewald are worth no more than a total of \$1.5 million to \$2 million, far from the \$10 million to \$12 million Hayes says was invested.

Rewald's company, Hayes said, is hopelessly bankrupt and should be declared so promptly.

In a 16-page affidavit written in prison and filed Friday in U.S. District Court, Rewald broke his six-week silence on his role in the saga of his company — Bishop, Baldwin, Rewald, Dillingham & Wong.

"I truly believe that my defense, and the defense of Bishop, Baldwin against

the charges of insolvency being levied against it, is the key to investor recovery in this case," Rewald said.

He said that only if the court carefully uses his information, including some filed in a secret document apparently relating to a connection with the CIA, is there hope that investors would recover their funds.

And Rewald added, "Only if the truth is made known, to the extent permissible by law, can I remove the blame and stigma which has been put upon me and once again hold my head high, if not proudly, whether in this community or elsewhere."

Rewald said the company's office furniture alone was worth \$2 million and that there was a \$1.8 million equity in his waterfront home.

Rewald claimed his company had closed or was about to close multimillion-dollar deals from Hawaii to Spain in July when he attempted suicide as a result of a television broadcast raising questions about his firm. The suicide attempt brought his operation to

a standstill.

But the owner of one major Hawaii project that Rewald mentioned said Friday that Rewald was "fantasizing" when he claimed involvement.

Rewald said, "I may or may not be guilty of heinous crime as presently charged" in his dealings with investors in Bishop, Baldwin.

But guilty or not, Rewald said, he is imprisoned under an impossibly high bail and unable to prevent the destruction of his company and the seizure of his personal assets "by default."

Rewald's civil attorney, Robert A. Smith, said in the court filing that it would take \$300,000 to \$500,000 and six months to prepare Rewald's defense, especially because travel to several foreign cities would be required.

Rewald also shed new light on these chapters of his stormy life:

● Professional football — He insisted he did play professional football, and produced press clippings about the Cleveland Browns, a copy of a contract

with the Baltimore Colts and a Kansas City Chiefs training camp roster as evidence.

In any event, he said, "I never discuss football or my days in it with anyone. They were not that great, as I bounced around a good deal, never amounting to anything. I finally gave it up to devote more time to my family."

● His previous bankruptcy — He said he began working in 1964 for a sporting goods venture in Wisconsin that failed and led to his personal bankruptcy because he had guaranteed loans and lines of credit for the company. Rewald said he refinanced his home to help pay off the debts.

● His criminal conviction in 1976 for violating Wisconsin's franchise investment law. Rewald was accused of selling a franchise for sporting goods stores to two men in 1974 without first registering with the state. — He said the charges were the result of statements

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